

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) was held at 2.30 – 4.00pm on Thursday, 25 September, 2014 in Room 2.01_N54, Nathan campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

Uncle Graham Dillon (Chair)	Aunty Anne Leisha
Professor Martin Betts	Professor Boni Robertson
Uncle Bob Anderson	Professor Adrian Miller
Uncle Thomas Sebasio	Mr Daniel Backhaus
Aunty McRose Elu	Ms Bianca Beetson
Mr John Graham	
Mr Harry van Issum	
Dr Kerry Bodle	
Ms Angela Leitch	
Mr Brian Blow	
Ms Warrika Watson	
Mr Shane Barnes	
Rosemary Marson (Secretary)	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, the Chair acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee meets.

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 1/2014 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

2.0 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No members identified any conflict of interest, as outlined in the University policy, *Conflict of Interest and Personal Relationships in the Workplace*, which exists in respect of any of the items on the Agenda.

**SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO COUNCIL AND ITS
SUB-COMMITTEES**

Nil

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL

SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS**3.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY POLICY**

- 3.1 The Advisory Committee noted that the University's *Acknowledgement of Country Policy* was introduced in 2009 and has recently been revised, see document 2014/0005144.
- 3.2 The Advisory Committee considered the revised *Acknowledgement of Country Policy* and suggested the following revisions. Members agreed that the policy should be revised to firstly include information on the *Welcome to Country* and then include information about how to conduct the *Acknowledgement of Country*. Members also agreed that anyone can do an *Acknowledgement of Country* and that this needs to be made clear in the revised policy.
- 3.3 Co-opted member Harry van Issum and the representative from Education Queensland, Angela Leitch agreed to undertake the redrafting of the policy, which will be forwarded for executive consideration by the Chair and then forwarded for approval by Executive Group.

4.0 BACHELOR OF EDUCATION – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RESTRUCTURE

- 4.1 The Advisory Committee was asked to consider information concerning the proposed restructure of the Bachelor of Education, in particular the withdrawal of the courses 2256EDN and 3030EDN, which are to be replaced with a new course, 1399EDN. The Advisory Committee noted concerns that this action appears to be counter to the aims of the University's Strategic Plan, which includes a goal concerning recognition of the unique place of First Peoples in Australian history and culture. Further, members noted that the University's Reconciliation Action Plan includes references to the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in strategic planning and in the curriculum.
- 4.2 Members endorsed the suggestion that a letter outlining these concerns be drafted for consideration by the Chair, and transmission to the Head of School, Educational and Professional Studies, Mt Gravatt.

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED, OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION**5.0 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

- 5.1 Members of the Advisory Committee recalled that the University's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) (2012-2015) was officially launched in September 2012, following an extensive period of engagement and discussion with key stakeholders from the University's First Peoples and non-First Peoples students and staff, the Griffith University Council of Elders, and members of the Equity Committee.
- 5.2 The Advisory Committee considered a progress report on the RAP in which the Co-Chair, Mr Shane Barnes advised members that a recent exercise regarding the RAP revealed that many members of the University community were not aware that the University has a Reconciliation Action Plan. The Co-Chair advised that in response to this finding, a communications plan is to be developed to assist in "spreading the word" about the RAP. Members agreed that such a plan should include an internal and external focus.
- 5.3 The Chair thanked the Co-chair, Mr Shane Barnes, for his report.

6.0 MEMBERSHIP

6.1 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee welcomed the following student representatives to the Advisory Committee:

- Mr Daniel Backhaus (Northern campuses),
- Ms Anita Broomhead (Gold Coast campus).

7.0 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH UNIT

7.1 As the Professor, Indigenous Research Unit did not attend the meeting, the report was deferred to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

8.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT

8.1 The Advisory Committee noted the Report submitted by the Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit, in which the Director reported on current issues of relevance to the Advisory Committee. These included recent mid-year enrolment figures; current continuing enrolments for 2014; a range of outreach activities; the *HandsUp!* Project; and the University's recent partnership with AIME.

8.2 The Chair thanked the Acting Director, GUMURRII Student Support Unit for the report.

9.0 FIRST PEOPLES' EMPLOYMENT AT GRIFFITH

9.1 The First Peoples Staff Project Officer reported on the following items:

- First Peoples Employment at Griffith Website;
- Indigenous Staff Network;
- Proposal to include a performance of live didgeridoo at Griffith graduation ceremonies.

9.2 Members noted that didgeridoo players are typically male and suggested that a musical instrument suitable for a female performer also be included in this recommendation.

10.0 REPORT FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS

10.1 As the Professor Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships (ICEPP) was not at the meeting, the Report was deferred to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

11.0 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR - ENGAGEMENT'S REPORT

11.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) reported on the proposed changes to the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) – funding implications for the University; First Peoples' Alumni – revisions to the Advisory committee Constitution to include provision for this group of graduates; Griffith University Strategic Plan 2013- 2017 and areas of relevance for First Peoples and the Advisory Committee.

12.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

12.1 The Chair reported on his involvement in activities at the Gold Coast campus concerned with promoting the ongoing relations between the First peoples of this region and Griffith University.

13.0 INDIGENOUS RESEARCH UNIT 2014 WORKSHOP – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

13.1 Members noted the Indigenous Research Unit Workshop on Tuesday 30 September 2014, at the Ship Inn, South Bank 9am – 5pm.

14.0 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Members noted the 2014 schedule of meetings, which are to be held on **Thursdays from 1:30pm – 3:30pm**.

Meeting Date	Campus	Venue
27 March	Nathan	N54_2.01
29 May	Nathan	N54_2.01
21 August	Nathan	N54_2.01
27 November	Nathan	N54_2.01

Confirmed: (Chair)

Date: